Must These Innocent Men Die?

Six men, all with proved alibis, now face death for homicide in Trenton, N. J. Witnesses said the crime was committed by two or three men. Six Negroes were "rounded up." Friends, relatives, neighbors, employers testified to the innocence of all six. Yet they were convicted by an all-white jury solely on "confessions" forced out of them. Below is the story of one of these confessions.

By WILLIAM A. REUBEN

IT WAS the day after McKinley Forest was supposed to have confessed to the murder of William Horner, 73, and the warden of Mercer County Jail told McKinley's brother Robert and two attorneys that nobody could see him.

"That boy is dangerous," the warden said, but the brother and the two lawyers wouldn't go away.

Robert Forest and the two lawyers, Harold Simandl, former judge in Newark, and Arthur Salvatore, were led to a dark segregation cell. A guard swung open the heavy iron door and said, "Here's your brother."

It was the first time anyone had been allowed to see him since his arrest.

Now McKinley Forest lay sprawled face down in his own vomit on the floor of the dark cell. He didn't move when the three men entered and he made no response when they spoke to him.

They picked him up and sat him down on the cell cot and wiped his face, and his brother shook him a little and called his name. After a time the prisoner put out his hand and fingered Robert Forest's hair and his features and then began to repeat, "Is this my brother?"

They spoke gently to him and assured him that this was, for sure, his brother. "They said my brother and lawyer were locked up and for me to plead guilty," McKinley Forest said.

'Someone's Behind Me'

After that he asked for water. He drank seven glasses as fast as they were brought.

But when they asked him questions he wouldn't answer them. He just kept shaking his head and two or three times he slapped his own face. Once he jerked his head around toward the slot in the cell door. "Someone's back there, behind me, telling me things to say."

Robert Forest gave his brother a cigarette. He lit it but after one puff threw it away. "There is something in it," he said. "Like the one they gave me. It tastes funny."

Salvatore lit up another cigarette and handed it to the prisoner. "Here, Mac, take this one. There's nothing wrong with it."

But again the prisoner dropped it after one puff, insisting that it didn't taste right.

The three men stayed with him for more than an hour, but when they left he was as dazed and incoherent as when they had arrived.

Three days later his sister-in-law visited him. After greeting her his first words were, "Why hasn't anybody come to see me before now?"

During his trial, in open court, both lawyers risked their professional standing by charging that the prisoner had unquestionably been drugged. They emphasized that he was in a complete daze directly after he was supposed to have signed a confession.

"In all the years that I have gone into jails to talk to prisoners," Simandl declared, "I've never seen anyone as dazed as McKinley was the day I saw him."

NATIONAL GUARDIAN
the progressive newsweekly

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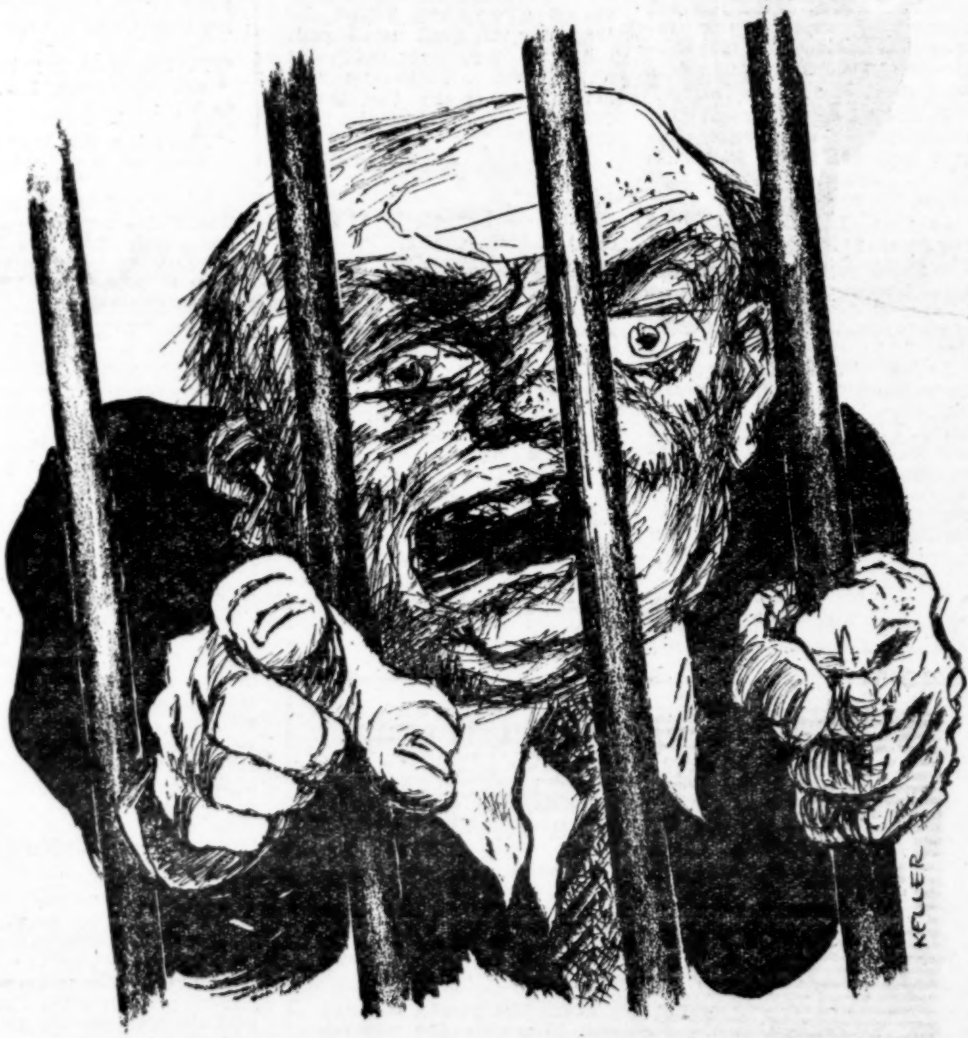
"You're All Un-American!"



THE INDICTMENT OF J. PARNELL THOMAS — (See Page 8)

Paul Robeson:

WHAT ARE THE CHANCES OF FASCISM IN AMERICA?

PAGES 6-7

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Vol. I—No. 5 178 MONDAY, NOV. 15, 1948

LETTERS

Matchan's Report

VALLEY CITY, S. D.

In this traditionally Republican community, only one word summarizes public reaction to election results: amazement.

For three hours day after elections I buttonholed average citizens—businessmen, farmers, unorganized workers (Democrats, Republicans), putting one question: Why did Truman win?

Invariably, even among staunch Deweyites, the response boiled down to this conclusion: "Truman told us where he stands, Dewey didn't."

Farmers were afraid of what might happen to the price support program under Dewey. A lot of housewives are mad about the cost of living.

Said a Republican-voting clergyman: "Dewey gum-shoed. The result shows conservatives can't learn from lessons of the past. Taft-Hartley and the farm program decided the election."

At least in this area, results were determined during the last three weeks of the campaign. Truman won because he said he is for a "people's government." Many believed him. Confused and frightened by the smear campaign against Wallace, they voted for Truman because they feel he is "safe," yet liberal.

Don C. Matchan

Don Matchan is the former editor and publisher of the Valley City Times Record. He was forced to sell his paper when the business men of the town boycotted it because it fought for labor's rights and civil liberties. Ed.

•

Honorary Angel

NEW YORK, N. Y.

Although not qualifying for Angelhood . . . I am enclosing $2 for two 13 week subscriptions. Because people have been scared away from voting for Wallace, we shall need your kind of newspaper with its clear exposure of the news to instil courage in the timid, confused voter . . . for the next time.

Esther Gray

•

Anti-Demagoguery

CLEVELAND, OHIO

Your GUARDIAN is just what we've needed for generations. If we'd had it during the last few decades more people would know the difference between a demagogue and an honest man.

Your details showing how the Truman-Marshall "doctrine" really works, how the people starve who are getting this "assistance," are exactly what is needed to open people's minds to the truth. Too often the opposition press merely presents its **conclusions**, and does not give people the **facts** substantiating those conclusions. Americans are so used to hearing charges and counter-charges that they pay little attention. But if they could be given proven facts, and convinced of the truth of those facts, we might begin to implement democracy.

Sorry I cannot give you my name and address. I haven't the confidence in the liberalism of the present Administration that many people have, and I want to continue eating for a while longer to see how you fare in this world. The Lord bless you and keep you.

•

Optimistic

WASHINGTON

Election results have left me optimistic, partly because the Republicans were repudiated, and partly because the Democrats are on the spot, and must put up or shut up. I don't expect them to put up too much with the large Southern delegation still present, which is all the more reason the Progressive Party must stay in business. Truman would not have won, I believe, had he not campaigned on Wallace's domestic program during the last month of the campaign.

James Wray

•

Wait and See

LOS ANGELES

As I listened to the election returns I tried to analyze why Harry Truman had won. That night it was difficult. I kept remembering the infamous Truman Doctrine, the broken railroad strike, the token veto of the Taft-Hartley law, the loyalty purge of government workers in Washington, the recent rash of injunctions against strikers, and of course a foreign policy which had discredited America all over the world. Could the people have forgotten so soon?

The following day I questioned people—all kinds—and I suddenly knew the answer. **Franklin Roosevelt** was more influential dead, than either Harry Truman or Tom Dewey alive.

We in the Progressive Party together with a great American, Henry Wallace, pointed the way and Harry Truman was forced to wage a good campaign. Now it remains to be seen what Harry Truman will do with the people's confidence.

Clare Waldman

'Chin Up and Keep Fighting!'

On the night of Wednesday, Nov. 3, an 18-year-old college student put in a long-distance call home to see if his father could tell him what had happened to his idol, Henry Wallace. The father couldn't do it on the phone but that night he wrote his son a letter. Mother, who liked it, sent it to us. We think it makes good reading too. Here it is:

DEAR David:

This letter is about politics and nothing but.

As a prophet your father is a complete loss. My next degree is going to be Doctor of Wishful Thinking.

But let's not be too down-hearted. Twelve years of FDR have left their impress. Twelve months of the Wallace campaign will not be lost either. . . .

If Truman goes back to his bankers and brass hats, the Progressive Party will be standing in the aisles, ready to raise hell. Truman won't be able to fool us twice; even a baby learns to avoid a hot stove the second time. The Progressives must carry on. We're the political gadflies. We're the catalytic agents. They may scorn us, berate us or worse; we'll win even if our 'liberal' friends refuse to call it a victory.

Quite a role, huh? Not spectacular, but very rewarding in many ways. I wouldn't take anything for my activities on behalf of Henry Wallace these last ten months, nor would mother. Nor would Freddie or Larry or Lou or Pearl or Dr. L. Nor would Henry Wallace, bless his fervor and his honesty!

THAT'S that, my lad! If Truman were to ask my advice, I would quote Shakespeare to him:

> *"There is a tide in the affairs of men, which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune."*

I'd say, "Harry, pick up the mantle of Roosevelt—and fast—for time will run out on you faster than you think in the first flush of your tremendous victory. Fire Chiang Kai-shek and the little Nazi king of Greece. Tell the Dixiecrats and bankers to go back to Wall Street. Build houses; frame good labor laws and fight them through Congress as Roosevelt did. Then will history acclaim you. Fail in your campaign pledges and the kids of the class of 1975 will curse your name!"

WHY am I not downhearted? For three reasons, and I think they're good:

Point One—The people moved left. Not far enough left to suit me, but definitely left. I have known times in my own life when the people, eager for a change, turned completely around and went to the right with suicidal fervor. They did not do that this time.

Point Two—Truman would not have moved left and would have lost the election if Henry Wallace had not set the tone of the campaign. Somehow the news reached Harry that he could not sell the people another four years of him by talking Taft-Hartley language.

I am convinced that in the last few weeks of the campaign, Truman swiped millions of Wallace votes. Folks said to themselves: "Maybe he means it. Let's back him. What's there to lose but the psychological value of a protest vote?" Even I, who have maintained all along that Truman and Dewey are twins under the skins, am glad that Tom was beaten by Truman **running as a progressive.**

Point Three—There is no turning back for Truman or anyone else. It may still be possible to talk Left and act Right and get away with it—it may be possible to disguise obnoxious reactionary concepts as 'liberal' a la ADA—but no outright conservative can win any longer by parading his conservatism.

ALSO please note that phony liberalism took quite a bath yesterday. The Liberal Party in this state dropped close to 50 per cent of its 1944 vote, while the ALP with all its splits within hit a new high of over 500,000, two and a half times the Liberal Party vote. That's progress; slow as hell, true. But that's the world you live in.

Those are my arguments. And may Truman heed my unsolicited advice! For your sake and for Carolyn's sake and for all humanity may he do so! Time will tell! In the meantime, chin up and keep fighting!

Love,

Dad

Common Sense About Words

SOCIALISM

THIS is a good word with a perfectly clear meaning, but when you meet it in the press it conveys nothing but confusion.

Last week's U.S. NEWS expounded (with huge but unblushing inaccuracy) how many hours it takes to do "$10 worth of work" under "Capitalism (U.S.)," "Communism (U.S.S.R.)" and "Socialism (Britain)."

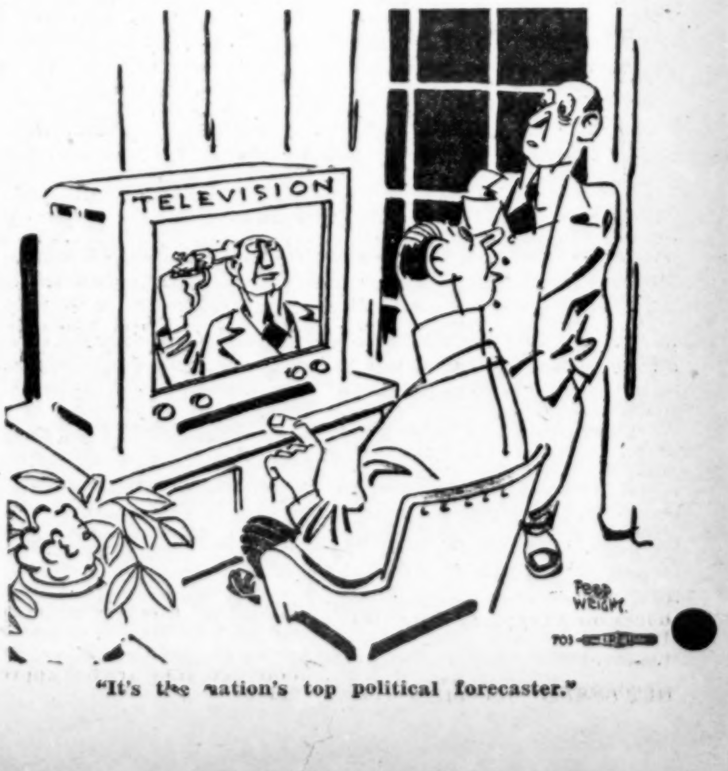
The system in the U.S.S.R. is not communism. The system in Britain is not socialism.

Socialism is a system under which the people, through their government, own and operate industries and services and land, and are paid according to the value of their work. The main difference between Socialists and Communists is that the former are more optimistic of being able to switch to socialism without violent opposition from capitalists, whose dividends would be cut off in the transition.

The British coal industry (now government-operated) was already bankrupt. In taking over the railroads, Britain did what capitalist France and other countries had done years before. It is now proposing to take over the steel industry which is the crux of a change in the system.

Communists as well as Socialists would like to see this pushed through without violence, from which nobody can gain anything. The great exponent of socialism, Karl Marx, thought there was a chance of that happening in Britain and the U.S.

When you hear the word "socialist" applied to any country whose steel industry is still privately owned, you may smile.



"It's the nation's top political forecaster."

THE WORLD

LETTER FROM THE WIFE OF A CONDEMNED GREEK TRADE UNIONIST

'I Felt Hatred, Hatred and Hatred As I Never Thought I Could'

The man described as "X" in the story below is one of the ten Greek merchant-marine trade unionists whose execution was stayed last week, after worldwide protests and a personal appeal to King Paul by Dr. Evatt, president of the U.N. General Assembly. (See World News Roundup, p. 4). The author is X's wife, whose name must be concealed for reasons of security. Her story was told in a letter to an American friend posted about three weeks ago.

ATHENS

TODAY we read in the papers that Simmons (British attorney who was refused a visa to defend the seamen) will not be allowed to come. Of course it would have been better if he could have, and have seen for himself what goes on here. But as it is, I expect the right conclusion will be drawn—that if they're afraid to let him come they have something to hide.

To talk of these men defending themselves, or having lawyers to defend them, is sheer irony of the most macabre kind. No good lawyer will take the case, since there is not even time for him to read through the papers. I finally got one lawyer who admits he is not of the caliber for such a case. His fee will be in the region of 7,000,000 drachmas, which of course we don't possess, but I have pledged to find it.

The lawyer was able to see X for about five minutes yesterday afternoon. Relatives also need to talk to the accused, to discuss what witnesses to get. I will tell you what happened to me this morning.

THE WOMEN WAIT. No matter how long they are kept waiting at the jail gates, the women don't say anything because they have learned that silent submission is best. About 100 of us waited outside in the nine-foot-wide street at the foot of the Acropolis, where some of the houses date back to Turkish times. The gendarmes, lounging there eating bread and cheese or passing in and out in trucks, made wisecracks or shrieked at us to get on the 1½-foot sidewalk.

A group of them piling into a truck laughed out loud. A woman near me murmured: "You can laugh now. You've got guns in your hands."

TOO LATE FOR SHAME. When we were finally called in, there was less than half an hour of the visiting time left. We stood in line to be searched by an old hag of 60-odd years, who screamed lewd jokes at the women as she ran her hands over them.

The old women felt ashamed when she ran her hands around their hips and between their legs. They murmured: "I haven't anything hidden." She laughed coarsely and said: "I'll just warm you up a bit."

The young women had no shame—they had been through more than this. It made no impression on them. They stood patiently without a word, then passed down the steps into the dark circular hall.

WHERE ARE OUR MEN? You could not see, but in a second or two your eyes became accustomed to the murk. You ploughed through the people standing outside the first steel door. The noise was terrific, for at eight tiny windows women were talking to their menfolk. Some were crying. One woman had fainted.

While they talked, they were continually interrupted by other women who ran frantically from one window to another, asking if their sons or husbands were there.

Finally my turn came. I went up to the window. It was a slot about 3 by 6 inches, with two iron bars across it.

I could just see a bit of X's hair and his eyes through the top section of the slot, and his lips moving through the lower slot. His nose peeped through the middle slot as he tried to get as near as possible, to make himself heard. "GET OUT!" Before we had finished saying "hello" and he had asked me about his mother, the gendarme who stood beside me shouted: "Come on, get out, you've said all there is to say!"

X shouted that I had only just come, and that we had to talk because his trial was on Monday. The gendarme became frantic and yelled filthy abuse at me. X shouted: "She is my wife. Let her speak to me!" The prisoner behind him jumped forward.

The gendarme grabbed me and tried to push me out. There was no room to move and I almost fell on top of the other women who were waiting.

I shouted something to X about the lawyers coming in the afternoon. As he moved away from the slot I caught a glimpse of the men inside the dungeon, sweating and all in their underwear because of the heavy atmosphere. Their bodies glistened in the dim light of the single lamp which gave some light to the underground cell.

WORK TO DO. I fell up the steps over sacks and cases—the "luggage" of the prisoners, for which there is no room in the cells. Up more steps from the "hall," and out into the yard and the fresh air.

I was trembling with anger and momentarily I felt hatred, hatred and hatred as I never thought I could.

But it's no good thinking. There's work to be done. Off I rushed to get to the lawyers in time for my appointment.

WHAT OLD HUNDRED NAMES WANTS

Something to Eat and Something to Wear; And America to Stop Meddling in China

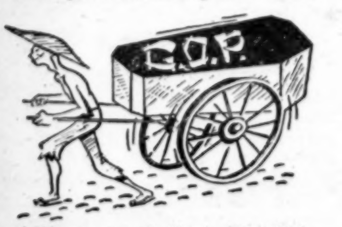
PEIPING

"OLD Hundred Names" is not in the least concerned about the results of the American election.

"Old Hundred Names" is the literal translation of "lao bai hsing." It means the common man.

Even government officials now admit that what "Old Hundred Names" wants most is enough to eat, a few simple articles of clothing, and adequate shelter. Equally important, he wants his government to stop harassing him.

RICKSHAW SAGACITY. A recent pre-election press association report that the Chinese were in a tizzy of excitement over the fortunes of Thomas E. Dewey is preposterous.



This report cited as proof a parade in Peiping in behalf of the Republican candidate.

In fact, 30 persons participated in the parade. Most people who saw it had no idea what it was all about. A rickshaw puller, who perhaps had greater political sagacity than Dr. Gallup, explained to some foreign visitors that it was just a funeral procession.

It is true that Kuomintang officialdom had pinned its hopes on Dewey. As for "Old Hundred Names," he never heard of Thomas E.

NOT AFRAID. Among liberals and intellectuals, and unfortunately there are relatively few of these, there was strong interest in the campaign of Henry Wallace. They were particularly impressed by his denunciation of American support of the present Chinese government.

It should be understood that liberals and intellectuals here differ from their American or British counterparts in that they are not afraid to work with Communists. They believe that there is no way of eliminating the Chiang Kai-shek government except by an alliance of all anti-Kuomintang forces.

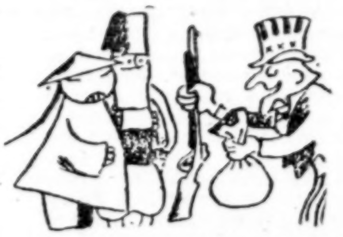
One university professor told me: "We Chinese simply cannot understand the American phobia on the subject of communism."

Another said, "You Americans worry about the loss of freedom of speech under communism. We don't have freedom of speech under the Kuomintang. We are sure we will enjoy greater freedom once the Kuomintang is defeated.

"You worry about freedom of the press. Not only do we not have freedom of the press today, but 90% of the people cannot read or write. What does freedom of the press mean to the illiterate?"

SO REMOTE. In educated anti-Kuomintang circles, these views are commonly held.

But these Chinese, even those educated in America, find it difficult to understand the intensity of the attack upon the Progressive Party candidate. The realities of American politics are so remote that they are not appreciated.



Trybuna wolnosci, Poland

"Take these and go out and save western civilization."

Intellectuals knew that Wallace could not win, but they hoped he would poll a greater vote than he did. They hoped for a vote which would be a sharp protest against American foreign policy in China.

THEIR PRAYER. The Chinese press has played up Dewey's criticism of the Truman China policy. Thus, many newspaper readers have gotten the notion that China was a greater issue in the recent campaign than it actually was.

Rightly or wrongly, some interpret Dewey's defeat as a repudiation of American activities in China.

Support for the government is growing slimmer by the day. If anything can save it, it is further American aid, in tremendous quantities.

It is the prayer of the anti-Kuomintang elements that combination of Wallace's criticism of aid to Chiang, Truman's ignoring of the question, and Dewey's defeat will bring an end to America's intervention in the Chinese Civil War.

—Lawrence Burns

WEEK'S ROUNDUP

Big Two Meet?

A FAIRLY obscure Washington columnist became world-famous last week because he wrote: "Mr. Truman is so determined to make good on his peace plan that he may go to Moscow" to see Stalin. Every Russian paper featured the story and it was picked up around the world.

The columnist was Tris Coffin, writing in the McCormick-Patterson **Times-Herald** of Washington.

Paris heard that Secretary Marshall was going home to see the President about it. In every land Joe Doakes kept his fingers crossed, hoping the U. S. election result meant what it seemed to mean.

Greatest weight was lent to the story by a direct appeal in the Pope's **Osservatore Romano**—which is not in the habit of speaking out of turn—for a Truman-Stalin meeting.

At Key West, Fla., a Presidential aide denied the whole thing. The President confined himself in press interviews to a few words about the beard he has been growing on his vacation. In Paris, Western U. N. delegates said it was all a "propaganda offensive" and indicated they would pursue the cold war as furiously as ever.

MOSCOW PARTY. While at the Soviet Embassy in Washington Attorney General Clark and Acting Secretary of State Lovett sampled Ambassador Panyushkin's caviar and vodka, millions of people surged and jostled around Moscow's Red Square in the 31st celebration of the Bolshevik Revolution.

The big ceremony was in the Bolshoi Theatre, festive with gold and crimson velvet, to which marshals, generals, workers, artists and scientists came as delegates. Foreign Minister Molotov told them that the people of the U. S. had rejected a program of aggression when they defeated Dewey and took Truman at his word. But he repeated Stalin's charge that some British and U. S. leaders were trying "to unleash a new war."

When the people straggled homeward and the strains

Continued in wide column on next page.

WEEK'S ROUNDUP

Continued from wide column on preceding page.

of the "Song of Labor" finally died away in Red Square, Vsevolod Ivanov, well-known Soviet writer, cabled to GUARDIAN:

"Lood at the faces of the people celebrating in our city today. Can you see on any one of them a single threat of atomic war or any war? Look at the slogans and statistics covering the walls—do you see a suggestion anywhere that any nation is 'barbarous' or 'fit to be exterminated'? No—these are peace-loving, industrious people."

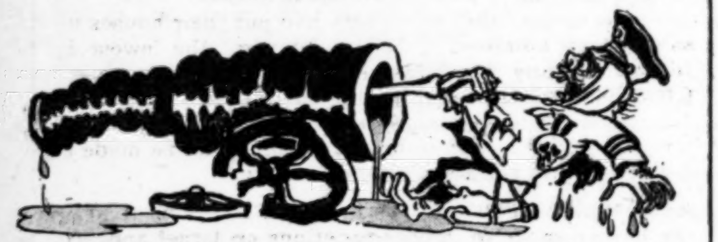
People's Wars

IN China, Greece and Palestine, peace was being made by the guns of the people.

The Chinese People's Army pushed onward rapidly, and Communist General Chu Teh said: "The liberation of all China is drawing near." U. S. planes and warships were rushed to the port cities to evacuate 7,000 Americans. A large-scale and "crucial" battle for Suchow was reported in progress north of the Yangstze River.

Chiang Kai-shek, vowing that the war would go on eight more years, placed Nanking and Shanghai under martial law. The people were rioting for food; policemen, unable to buy rice at inflation prices, were failing to report for duty.

The Communists repeated their desire to co-operate with Kuomintang liberals and the Democratic League for the good of the Chinese people.



KOREAN ECHOES. Events in China were causing sinking sensations in the U. S.-sponsored government of Korea, which will be more than ever out on a limb if Chiang is kicked out.

"Government quarters" in Seoul, south Korean capital, were quoted as asking: "Will the Americans pull out, leaving us to the not gentle mercy of Red aggressors?"

American news agencies remained mum about the south Korean rebellion against the gangster police inherited by U. S. occupation forces from the Japanese. A **Tass** (Soviet) report claimed that the rebellion had not been put down, as Americans claimed, but was continuing on a large scale. **Tass** quoted Seoul papers as saying that U. S. troops were taking part in actions against the rebels.

Throughout the Far East, the millions who took the Atlantic Charter seriously and saw the U. S. as the champion of oppressed peoples seemed to be reaching the final stage of disillusionment.

American aid to the French in Indo-China, to the British in Malaya, to the Dutch in Indonesia — all was in vain. The explanation was given in an unguarded moment by British Colonial Secretary Creech Jones, when he told the House of Commons concerning Malaya last July: "It is true that you see there today a conflict (in which) the same kind of interests are involved as in China itself."

Hope In Greece

IN a speech to his constituents, British M. P. and GUARDIAN correspondent Konni Zilliacus compared the Greek with the Chinese regime as "an obscene tyranny collapsing under the weight of its own iniquity, in spite of floods of American arms, supplies, food, money, advisers, experts, instructors, administrators, officers, Uncle Tom Cobbley and all."

The Greek people's longing for peace was bursting into the open last week. From Athens, nine highly respectable citizens, eight of them former cabinet ministers, cabled Herbert V. Evatt, Australian president of the U. N. General Assembly in Paris, urging him to press his efforts for a negotiated peace with guerrilla Gen. Markos. They included the great landowner Gen. Constantin Manetas, former Supreme Court president Demetrios Kolyvas, and George Vorazanis, member of parliament for Drama, Macedonia.

In the Parliament chamber next day (known to most Greeks as "The Coffee House" because of the members' rowdy habits), infuriated royalists set upon Vorazanis and threw him out bodily. Eighty-five years earlier, when

Continued in wide column on next page.

THE WORLD

ANNA LOUISE STRONG

Moscow: More Peaceful Than Ever

His Lordship's Vespers

(With apologies to Christopher Robin)

"I pray twice a day for Russia . . . . One has to take care, just as one has to do with a child."—Lord Pakenham.

Labor lord kneels at the foot of his bed,
Looks underneath it in case there's a Red,
Hush! Hush! Whisper who dares!
Little Lord Pakenham's saying his prayers.

God bless Attlee. *I know that's right.*
Wasn't it fun in the Lords tonight?
The Right's so right and the Left's so wrong.
Oh! God bless Bevin and keep him strong.

Oh! Thank you God for a lovely day,
For the atom bomb and the U.S.A.,
And—*if I shan't be misunderstood*—
God bless Stalin and make him good.

—Peter Quince in London Daily Worker.

MOSCOW

AS soon as one passes the "iron curtain," the war talk dies.

France was full of it, and of strikes and all kinds of unrest; France is American-zone.

Safe little Switzerland spoke in awed tones of the "90 super-bombers that America sent to London, with atomic loads equal to 72,000 ordinary bomb-loads of the recent war." One shivered, expecting the world's death.

But Prague worked peacefully and hard, with 25 percent more bread and sugar than a year ago. People only grumbled a bit because shoes and shirts must still be exported to pay for last year's food.

Poland was lavish with white buns and butter, boasting that, for the first time in centuries, Poles eat as well as the once "master-German-race."

THE STRAIN IS OVER. Moscow is happier and more peaceful than I ever saw it.

I felt it the first evening when I came from the airport at dusk to my crowded flat. In the year since the currency reform, tense lines have been smoothed from faces. People's tempers are better because the shops are full of goods and food; the spiteful, petty kitchen fights of the barren days are no more.

No more long queues. No more travelling across town in the hope of an extra piece of meat or butter. Only now, when I see what a difference it makes, only now do I realize by contrast how great the tension was. How long, how all but unbearable the strain of that total war . . . Every man, every woman, every child endured it.

NO HOWLS. Stalin says there won't be war and the people believe him. They don't care to titillate their nerves with atom bombs and bacteria and the "end of civilization" in the headlines. Leave that playing with war to America. Russians have had enough!

Not that world events are omitted from the newspapers. Just now nearly half of **Pravda**'s four pages goes regularly to the U. N. meeting in Paris. A larger percentage than America gives.

But this material is on the inside pages, and without benefit of startling headlines. No howls about great emergencies and peace about to break down. There are two solid—very solid—pages given to the discussions about Berlin and atom-bomb control. And people read them—what Marshall said, what the Mexicans said, what Canada said, what Bevin and Vishinsky said.

RED HEADLINES. In a later article I shall tell how the Russians look at some of these all-important matters. But just now, as a study in relative values, let us look at the front pages of the Moscow papers.

"Light Industry Turns Out 50 Percent More Clothes Than Last Year" . . . "Nine Million People Move to New Homes in War Torn Areas" . . . "Soviet Troops Withdraw from North Korea" . . . "Fifty Year Jubilee of Moscow Art Theater" . . . These are headline news in Moscow.

"Huge Rural Electrification Plan Approved," runs another headline. I learn that some 22,000 collective farms and tractor stations — in other words, 22,000 centers of rural population — have been electrified to date, and that this number will be tripled within three years. Not by big state super-power systems but by local resources, harnessing thousands of small streams.

The farmers do the work, the government supplies engineers and technicians, and the factories work over hours to produce small turbines for rural use.

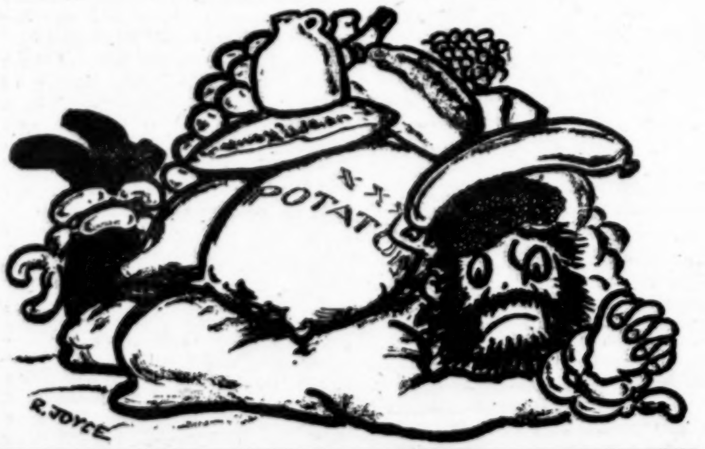
War news at last! "Air Operations," I read. But wait a bit. Go on to the second line. "Air Operations Stamp Out Locust Hotbed. War Against Grasshoppers Reaches Final Stage."

It's quite a tale. Before the war with the Germans, the U.S.S.R. had conquered the grasshoppers that had ruled for 1,000 years on the Asian plains. They beat those grasshoppers by airplane, by dusting 6,500,000 acres in a single year.

The war with the Nazis gave the locusts a chance to break loose again. So after the Nazis were beaten, the Russians had to take on the grasshoppers.

The scientists gave better sprayers, more potent insecticides. Government planes cooperated with local farmers. One after another the Ukraine, Moldavia, the Kuban and Azerbaidjan were "freed" from the enemy. "And now the last breeding-ground is eliminated from the swamps near the Aral Sea."

These are the victories that make front-page headlines. Not war, not atom-bombs!



The Russian Menace

"I do not believe for a moment that anybody, the Russians or anybody else, intend or contemplate a war."—Sir Hartley Shawcross, British Attorney General and U.N. delegate.

•

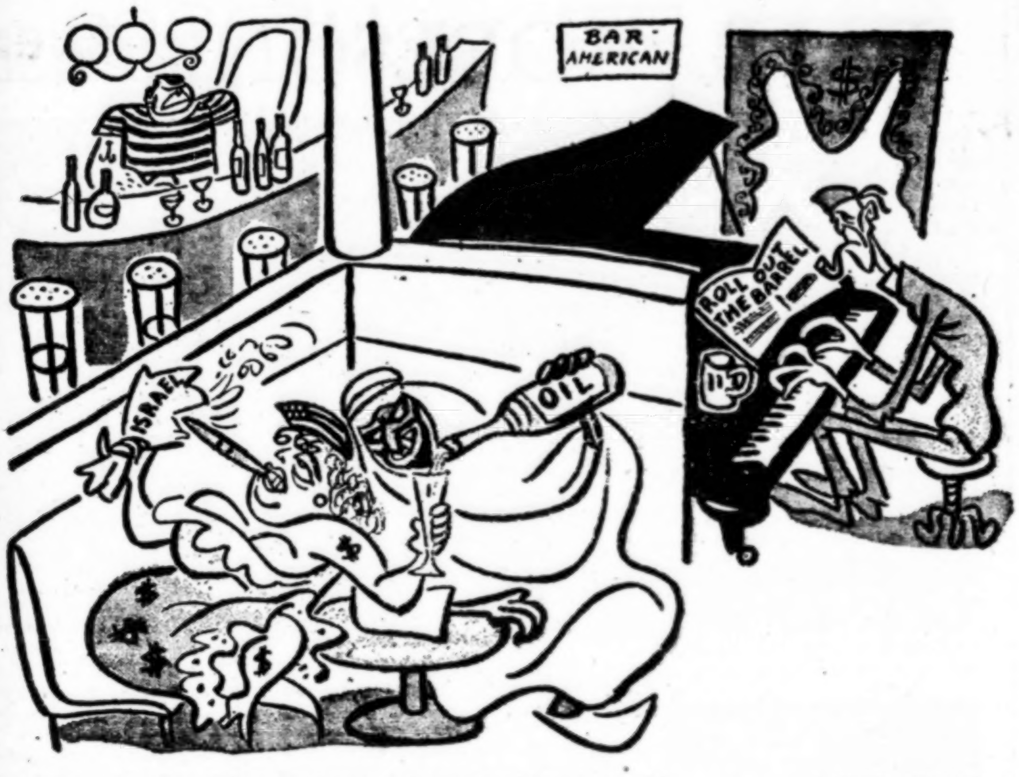
"The Russian people do not want war, and neither does the Kremlin."—Robert Magidoff, U.S. correspondent recently expelled from the U.S.S.R.

•

"Gilmore [Eddy Gilmore, AP correspondent in Moscow] who speaks Russian, has been trying for days to find Russians who talk about war or even its possibility. He hasn't been able to discover one, not a single Russian man, woman or child talking war. Not one."—London Daily Express.

WANTED
GUARDIAN
ANGEL
DEPUTIES

THE WORLD



"Boy, is she going to have a hangover tomorrow!" A Czech commentary

The Lebanese Like the Israeli—They Get Pushed Around Too

WILL the delegates of the U. N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, who meet this week in the Lebanon, find out how much support the Lebanese Government gets from its people?

Talking to Arab correspondents at Paris a few days ago, Riad el Solh, Moslem Prime Minister of this little republic, complained of the "serious and mysterious" fact that Arab forces (the Egyptians) in the Negev did not fight with much enthusiasm despite their excellent equipment.

He did not refer to the fact that 86% of the Lebanese people want to live in peace with the Israelis. He did not disclose that not one Christian Lebanese (more than half the population is Christian) has volunteered for service in Palestine. Nor that the pro-Arab League policy of the present Lebanese Government has been imposed upon a nation which has been for nearly 2,000 years the only Christian country of Asia, and the refuge of all oppressed minorities of the Middle East, Christian, Moslem and Jewish alike.

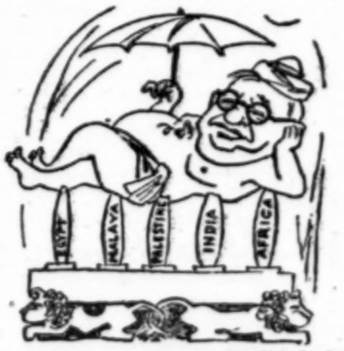
INKY DEMOCRACY. The men who at present rule the Lebanon came into power when the French Mandate was abolished at the end of the war. The British, through their pro-Arab League envoy General Spears, distributed funds and promises to win over Lebanese politicians to the Moslem cause.

In May 1947, when new elections were due, the people voted overwhelmingly against this cabinet and its parliament, but could not unseat it. About 40 dailies—all Lebanese papers but one—denounced the scandalous events at the polls. The ballot-boxes were stuffed, opposition watchers were denied access to the polling stations, opposition leaders were ejected or beaten, armed police intimidated the voters. Government officials even poured ink bottles into the ballot-boxes.

RUINING THE COUNTRY. A cabinet member, Kamal Jimblat, resigned and told the press: "Forgery was practiced in no fewer than 40 or 50 electoral districts."

Camille Chamoun, then Minister of Finance, also resigned. He said his reelection had been planned in order to silence his criticism.

Chamoun was once very pro-British and an artisan of the Arab League. Today he has joined the opposition, and cooperates with Al Kataeb (the Phalanx), strongest opposition group of Christian Maronites, led by Pierre el Jemayel.



Szpilki, Lodz

Fakir

Two weeks ago Camille Chamoun appealed to the President of the Republic and described in his letter how the pro-Arab League policy of the cabinet is ruining the country. It is not only destroying Lebanon's traditional freedoms. It has also completely upset the country's economy.

Astronomic taxes have been imposed upon the people, "to help Palestine": 50% on gasoline, 20% on income, 10% on wages, 5% on mail, 10% on food supplies, and many others.

Lebanon suffers an acute shortage of wheat. But the government refused an offer of wheat at 12 cents a kilo from the U. N., and bought it at double the price from Syria, as a "friendly gesture." The shortage is such that, a few months ago, the government sent to the town of Zahle rotten black barley which even the cattle refused to eat. When the population demonstrated peacefully demanding wheat, police were sent to Zahle and fired into the crowd.

CHRISTIANS PROTEST. The boycott of trade with Israel imposed by the Arab League is causing the loss of about $8,000,000 a year. Lebanon's budget was always balanced in the past, but the cabinet recently spent about $100,000,000 for the Arab cause in Palestine and is borrowing from Syria.

Dissatisfaction has often been voiced by the leaders of the Maronite Church (main Christian sect in the Lebanon)—the Patriarch, Monsignor Arida, and the Archbishop of Beirut, Monsignor Mubarrak. The clergy has always kept in close touch with the people in the Lebanon, and they are considered political as well as religious leaders.

They oppose the ambition of the other Arab countries to swallow Christian Lebanon in a Moslem Greater Syria. They believe that an Israeli state in Palestine and a free Lebanon are the only breeding-grounds for democracy in the Middle East.

The Lebanese are at present encouraged by the financial and military troubles in which the Arab countries find themselves after their unsuccessful war with the Jews. Despite the police-state measures which the government imposed upon the people, the opposition is gaining strength. The Archbishop of Beirut is expected to come out soon with a blast that will be heard at the United Nations as well as at the Vatican, and destroy the fallacy of a pro-Arab League Lebanon.

—Ali Hassan

WEEK'S ROUNDUP

Continued from wide column on preceding page.

Greece's German kings were first beginning to feel the climate was unhealthy, king Otho was thrown out of the same building—an architectural horror in "German neo-classic Greek" style, facing the police headquarters and the smug Grande Bretagne Hotel on Athens' Constitution Square.

Action In U.N.

NO REPLACEMENTS. Taking the initiative in Paris, Australia's Evatt had pushed for settlements between the parties concerned in the three great U. N. headaches: Greece, Berlin, and Israel.

The smaller powers were rallying behind him, but the usual condemnation of Albania, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria for helping Markos' guerrilas received the usual majority. However, the pressure from Paris forced Greece's Premier Sophoulis to resign on Friday.

Evatt's telegram to Athens, asking reconsideration of the death sentence on ten maritime labor leaders (see story on page 3), brought postponement of the executions. The one man and two women on whose testimony the seamen were convicted of aiding the guerrillas had all repudiated it in court, saying it was forced out of them.

Relatives of the defendants had put their houses up for sale to pay admittedly inferior lawyers; the lowest figure for which any good lawyer would take the case was 6,000,000 drachmas cash on the barrelhead.

Commented the wife of one defendant: "Of course lawyers have also got to live; but things can be made again—and you can't replace a human being."

BAKSHEESH FOR IRAQ. As GUARDIAN went to press, the British move to impose sanctions on Israel appeared to be stymied. Factors were the military success of the Israeli army; a shift by the U. S. delegation which, under Truman's instructions, cooled toward the move it had supported; and the division among Arab countries.

The report persisted that the Arabs and Israel were negotiating a peace and that the British were trying to block agreement.

The Iraq government, broke because its oil royalties had been halved by closing of the Haifa refineries, begged the Anglo-America-Dutch-French-owned Iraq Petroleum Co. for a quick advance. The unrepresentative Lebanese cabinet was sitting on its private volcano (see **Hassan,** this page).

One Middle East expert in London said most of the Arab states "are being ruined" by the Palestine campaign.

Tojo, Krupp & Co.

LAST week's news brought faint echoes of World War II and the reasons for which free people fought and died in it.

After a trial lasting more than two years, Hideki Tojo and six other Japanese warlords were condemned to death; 16 others got life imprisonment.

In Germany, following "democratization" of Krupp and I. G. Farben warlords and suspension of death sentences on 139 war criminals (including 17 murderers of GI prisoners of war), Field Marshal Montgomery met with French and U. S. generals to develop plans for German participation in "defense of the Western European Union."

Generals Clay (U. S.) and Robertson (Britain) began turning the industrial Ruhr area back to the Nazis, and authorized Fawcett and Macfadden Publications to feed the German soul with comic books and true love novelettes as part of the Marshall Plan.

TURTLE SOUP FOR NAZIS. France's government objected feebly to the Ruhr deal as millions of German workers, including some 500,000 Ruhr miners, went on strike against stratospheric living costs, and Frankfurt Nazis dined on turtle soup, roast duck and souffle.

The U. S. press added to American confusion by calling the French senatorial election a "major victory" for de Gaulle. The election was a tortuously indirect one in which the people did not vote; even French officials admitted it had no relation to popular feeling.

Reports of Armistice Day observance in Paris highlighted a "brawl" with police "that the Communists had evidently instigated." Old-fashioned folk recalled that "the Communists," above all other Frenchmen, faced torture and death rather than yield their country to Hitler.

THE NA

WEEK'S ROUNDUP

Election Aftermath

THE President and Vice-President-elect were at Key West last week. Some said they talked of Israel; some said they talked of Cabinet shifts; some said they talked about the sun.

In the newspapers and in the corridors of Washington hotels people played a speculative game of musical chairs, in which some Cabinet officer dropped out at every round. Most persistent guess was that Secretary of Defense Forrestal would be among the first to go. Air Secretary Symington and Undersecretary of State Lovett also were popular choices for ex-Cabinet members-to-be.

GEORGE IN-AND-OUT. Secretary of State Marshall was alternately in and out of his post with every fresh whispering wind from Key West. Secretary of the Army Royall, who last March said that he was out of sympathy with the denazification trials, was another favored for political extinction.

Prime liability of the candidates for oblivion was the record of the campaign, during which some members of the President's official family took pot shots at him. Typical was the black spot against Lovett, who was reported to have called Truman "a necktie salesman."

Likeliest to fill the shoes of departing Cabinet members are Chief Justice Vinson and Justice Douglas. Those not slated for retirement by any Capital expert are Secretary of the Treasury Snyder and Attorney General Clark. Both have been enthusiastically pro-Truman.

HARRYCRATS FORGIVE. Dixiecrats seemed unworried, notwithstanding the suggestion by Mrs. Roosevelt that the Democratic Party denounce and disown them. J. Howard McGrath, Democratic National Chairman, was in a forgiving mood. Many Dixiecrats, said he, had "understandable motives."

However, to show that Democrats could be stern as well as merciful, McGrath announced that Gov. J. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, Dixiecrat standard bearer, could not serve on the National Committee. That seemed about the extent the Dixiecrats would have to suffer at the hands of the victorious Harrycrats. Louisiana's Senator-elect Russell Long, Huey Long's nephew and a confirmed Dixiecrat, pronounced McGrath's easy tolerance "a smart move."

Capital chatter was also whittling away at the mandate of 1948. While Secretary of Labor Tobin came out flatly for repeal of the Taft-Hartley law, a poll of Congressmen revealed that such a move would have tough going and might possibly fail to make it. There was ominous talk of "improving" the law. Administration spokesmen were talking of a new law to replace it, but what that might contain was still unknown.

All Washington was insecure, but most jittery were members of the House Un-American Activities Committee **(see story on page 8).**

Civil Liberties

THE Supreme Court last week grasped two of the hottest potatoes on the judicial calendar.

They agreed to review the constitutionality of the Taft-Hartley law provision, under which union officers must file non-communist affidavits in order to qualify for the services of the National Labor Relations Act. The justices also agreed to consider the case of Gerhart Eisler, a German Communist charged with contempt of Congress. Eisler had refused to answer the questions of J. Parnell Thomas, who wanted to know Eisler's political beliefs.

AS EISLER GOES. The real question before the court concerns the Constitutional right of a man to the privacy of his beliefs. As Eisler goes, so go the ten Hollywood writers and directors, the 11 members of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee and scores of other progressives facing jail terms on similar charges.

They will stand or fall with this German Communist, whose case has for two years had the world seriously ques-

Continued in wide column on next page.

PAUL ROBESON: *Fasci[illegible]*

I DO not fear the next four years. I do not foresee the success of American reaction; I see only its attempt and its failure. By 1950 there will be no fascist threat in our land.

I have seen fascism in many places, and I know something of how it works, but I know more of why it does not work for long.

Too often we consider minutely how the fascists will come, what devices they will use, how swiftly they will move; too rarely do we consider the mechanism of resistance.

I have seen both fascism and resistance, overseas and in our own country. I know that resistance to fascism is growing far more rapidly than fascism itself in our land.

When I toured the South I saw that resistance sending its roots deep into the soil, and if any man tells me that American fascism will come out of the South, I laugh. I know that American fascism will meet its first and most crushing defeat in the South. I know that American fascists, no matter what name they bear, no matter what banner they fly, will go down into dust, and that it will not take long.

PAUL ROBESON

IN the final months of the campaign I was in a little Southern town. The Progressive Party candidate was scheduled to hold a meeting at a Negro church. For days before, the Klan in the neighborhood had circulated handbills warning the people to stay away, promising to ride that night. On the day of the meeting the Klan mobilized in the hills. Yet the meeting was held.

Some people came, but not many. The candidate and I and a few others stood inside the church watching the handful trickle in. At dusk the Klan came down in their cars. But when they came abreast of the church there were a hundred or more Negro men from the fields standing in front of the church, silent and ready. And the Klansmen did not stop.

We had not called those men to defend us. The Progressive Party had not summoned them. They were not Progressive Party people. They came because they would not allow the men of force and violence to keep them from something they wanted to hear.

That resistance is hard to measure at the ballot box.

BOSS Crump swore that we would not come into Memphis. The American Legion and the Ku Klux Klan threatened that if we did sneak in, we would not get out so easily. We did not sneak into Memphis; we entered it boldly after a Negro church invited us, and no one dared to move against that Negro community, aroused and militant.

When I think of American resistance to fascism, I think of that preacher in a little Florida town who stood up in the square, looked at the menacing Klansmen and said, "I am going to stay in the Progressive Party. If anyone wants to find me, this is my name and here is my address."

The South is filled with such preachers and such people.

Joseph Hirsch, whose painting, "Two Men," is reproduced above, is one of America's foremost realist painters. This painting, voted by 120,000 visitors as the favorite at the contemporary American art exhibit at the 1939 World's Fair, is reproduced here by permission of the Museum of Modern Art of New York.

Close to 1,000,000 Negroes live in states governed by Talmadge and guided by Thurmond. That dilemma of democracy must be resolved.

Many people sought to [illegible]solve that and similar dilemmas by voting for Harry [illegible]man and the Democratic [illegible]. The fact that they did not vote for Henry Wallace does not greatly dismay me. It is most important that they saw those dilemmas clearly and voted for a promise of solution. If by their votes they succeed in forcing the Democrats to progressive action, our aim will have been won. If the Democrats dare this time to betray their promise, and if we are there with the people, by 1950

IS THERE A GLUT AHEAD?

'Prosperity' Is Worrying the Nation's Little

Oh his pants are wearing thin;
His condition—it's a sin;
But the farmer is the man who
who feeds 'em all.

Depression Song

THE farmer's present condition, if not a downright sin, is certainly backsliding.

Six months ago, when farm prosperity reached record proportions, two thirds of the nation's farmers earned less than $2,500. One sixth of them earned less than $400 a year. Only one eighth earned more than $6,000.

Then, last summer, prices "levelled off." To the farmer that was like levelling off on a steep down-grade. While his prices are "level" the farmer's expenses continue to mount. Experts now predict that this two-way stretch will continue as a trend throughout this year and on into 1949. If it does, the small farmer, whose boom never granted him more than marginal security, will face hard times.

GLUT AHEAD? A sound agricultural policy involves high price floors for the farmer, which amounts to buying up large quantities of his produce. Most of that produce now is going to Europe. When the countries of Europe rebuild to something like self-sufficiency, there may well be a glut. If that happens, grain may burn again, ditches may run white with milk again and potatoes may be allowed to rot.

The glut, if it comes, will come in the midst of widespread malnutrition at home and abroad. Not people, but the economy, will be glutted.

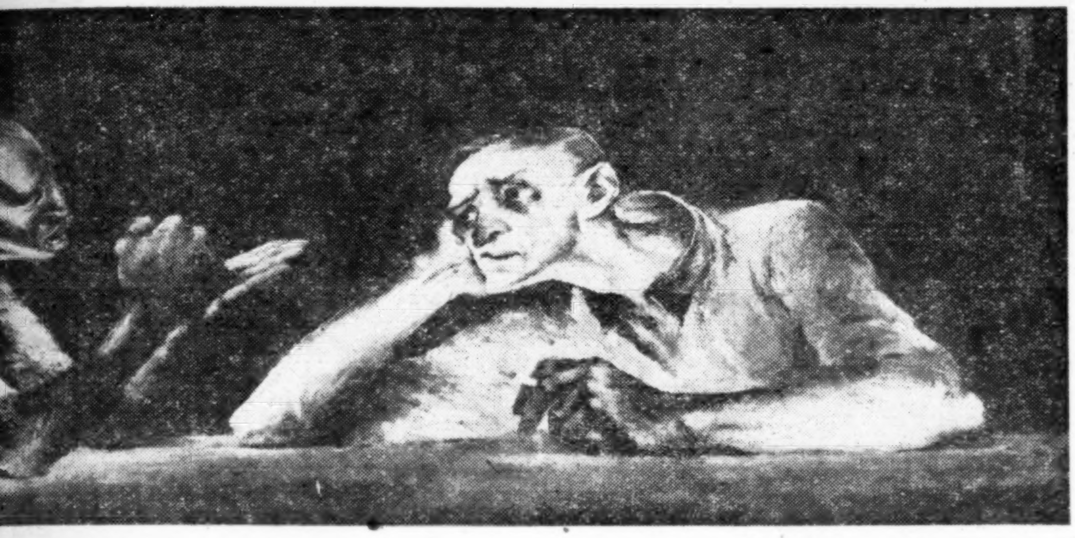
So uneasy do the farmers feel, in the midst of their "prosperity," that many of the most hard-bitten Republicans among them shied away from Dewey because he offered no backstop for the farmers.

WELL PLANNED. One area of farm planning thoroughly explored is the persistent war boom.

Republicans and Democrats joined in denouncing or ignoring Henry Wallace's ever-normal-granary plan which, in effect, stockpiled grain to cushion a peacetime economy. Now the National Security Resources Board plans to stockpile grain, meat, fruit, fats and oils for war.

If M-day comes, the far[illegible]s life will have been thoro[illegible] blue-printed. By an elaborate system of setting prices, farmers will be driven to produce according to schedule: for ex-

Will Not Come to America



the Progressive Party will be on the path of victory.

BUT we must learn to work a little better. During the campaign we Progressives made mistakes. Some of those were inevitable. We were building then, and we had to build fast.

We worked too much as if our road pointed to election day and ended on election day. We did not reach the street-corners save at the last moment. What we said in the great meeting halls was good, but the people were in their communities, on their farms. We were not there, or not enough of us were there. Vito M[illegible]antonio is one man among us who has known how to work with people. Vito Marca[illegible]io is back in Congress.

Now we have a new opportunity for work. We can go to people; we can serve them without asking for their votes. We can work to clear their slums and to lower their rents; we can get them better schools and playgrounds. Then when election day comes around, we shall not be strangers ringing doorbells; we shall be friends.

Long before an election was in sight I sang in little Negro churches and on picket lines, and I did not then ask for votes. Now I will go back and sing again. If other Progressives now begin to work close to the people, close to their homes, then we shall build a party that can last, a party that is not suspect because it ends on election day.

WE of the Progressive Party offer a form, a channel for American resistance.

When the chips are down the names our enemies may call us will not matter. Once a slaveholder said this: "We warn the North that every one of the leading abolitionists is agitating the Negro slavery question merely as a means to attain their ulterior ends . . . a surrender to socialism and communism — to no private property, no church, no law, to free love, free lands, free women and free children."

Though the language is that of our modern white supremacists, it was first used by George Fitzhugh, a Southern slaver, in 1857.

The abolitionists were not frightened, not dismayed, not defeated by that language.

Americans have always nurtured a great distrust of the ranting politicians and the ranting press. But when that distrust is confirmed by the hard evidence of oppression and terror, then the sly, easy tolerance of corruption will vanish, and Americans will come out fighting.

LET no one be deceived by the election returns. Let every man who would know the true feelings of Americans count up the Progressives who voted for Truman; the voteless Progressives in the South, and in Illinois, Nebraska, Oklahoma; those who were frightened but who will not stay frightened.

The bipartisans still hold the government, but let us not look through the spectacles of the enemy. The abolitionist Wendell Phillips, speaking at the grave of John Brown, said: "True, the slave is still there. So, when the tempest uproots a pine on your hills, it looks green for months—a year or two. Still, it is timber, not a tree. John Brown has loosened the roots of the slave system: it only breathes—it does not live—hereafter."

As GUARDIAN goes to press, the National Committee of the Progressive Party is about to meet in Chicago. Party leaders will map a legislative program for the 81st Congress, and will outline organizational plans and policies for the Party itself. For special coverage of the conference see next week's GUARDIAN.

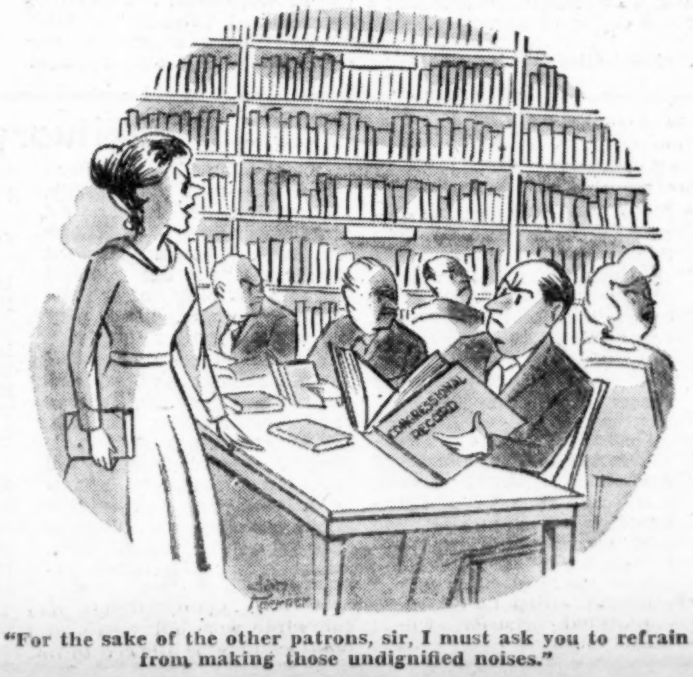
Farmers

ample, more soy beans when needed, less cattle. The government itself may enlist farmers to produce directly for it, according to present plans.

COLORFUL CHAOS. Stockpiling farm products for war may begin in 1949. Planned production schemes may not go into effect until some emergency is decreed.

Rationing will go into effect with the dropping of the first bomb. There are to be no coupons. The confusion will be more colorful. One scheme is to issue paper currency in various colors. Blue bills would buy only food, red bills only clothes, yellow bills only fuel.

In that way, if the government wanted to control buying in certain fields, it would have only to regulate the issuance of the colored currency for that field. Among the bugs to be [illegible]ked out of the ration ma[illegible]ery is the predicament of a man who wants a hamburger and has to settle for a pair of shoes because of the color of his cash.



"For the sake of the other patrons, sir, I must ask you to refrain from making those undignified noises."

WEEK'S ROUNDUP

Continued from wide column on preceding page.

tioning America's national sanity. Charged with coming here as part of a "red plot," Eisler has shown beyond a shadow of doubt that he crossed the Atlantic as the only alternative to death; that he never wanted to come to the U. S. at all and has no desire but to go home. He is being held for deportation.

TRIAL OF THE 12. In New York 12 American Communists are to stand trial today, charged with heading the Communist Party in this country, and thereby teaching the violent overthrow of government. A panel of 300 possible jurors will appear in Federal Court, among whom, according to defense attorneys, there are very few working people.

The defense has asked Judge Harold R. Medina to disqualify himself because of personal prejudice. At an earlier hearing, when the defense pointed out that neither the accused men nor the Communist Party, itself, were charged with any specific acts of violence, Medina remarked: "No, they want to wait until they get everything set and the acts will come."

Last week the judge refused to disqualify himself. He said he had "no thoughts" on the case.

"NO HYSTERIA." The defense asked for a postponement on the ground that present anti-communist hysteria made a fair trial impossible. Lawyers offered in evidence a stack of lurid headlines from the local press. Said the court: "There is no hysteria."

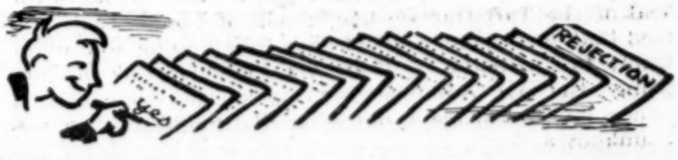
Legal peg on which the Government's case hangs is the Smith Act of 1940, which sets up standards of "guilt by association." Its constitutionality is in doubt.

He Dared to Vote

LEGAL LYNCHING. Another court, in Montgomery County, Ga., acted swiftly to uphold Southern traditions. After deliberating two and a half hours a jury acquitted the confessed murderer of Isaiah Nixon, the one Negro in the county who dared to vote in the last Democratic primaries.

Nixon was shot three times while his wife and six children looked on. The court used the plea of "self-defense" in order to condone the murder, although Nixon admittedly was unarmed. Sheriff R. M. McCrimmon explained that Nixon had been fairly warned not to try to exercise his constitutional right to vote.

In Washington too, came a ruling against equal treatment of Negroes. A Municipal Court of Appeals last week upheld the "right" of the National Theatre to refuse to admit Negroes. The suit brought against the theatre cited the Anti-Racial Segregation Act of 1865. The court answered that the act was unconstitutional since it invaded "states' rights."



TEMPTATION. The big brass last week was ready to fire its most impressive battery of loyalty questions at draftees. Throughout the nation's induction centers, civilians still clinging to their tweeds will be faced with forms more numerous and more formidable than those that overwhelmed the veterans of the Pentagon.

Each draftee will have to sign statements that he is not, was not and never will be a member of any one of 83 organizations on a list handed him by a helpful lieutenant. If he says "no" for each of those 83 organizations, he's in. If he says "yes" for any one of them he will be given more forms to sign. The last will be a rejection.

How can the Army afford to tempt a poor draftee like that?

TANGLED FISH LINES. During the war a group of Yugoslav fishermen were allowed to try their luck in western waters.

A few weeks ago, before his election defeat, Rep. McDowell of the House Un-American Activities Committee was shocked to discover they were still there, quietly fishing for Lord knows what.

He hired a Yugoslav named Vosnjak to fish for Reds among them. J. Edgar Hoover of the FBI also dispatched an agent on the same mission. And what did the FBI agent do but arrest Mr. McDowell's agent. Mr. Vosnjak is still trying to clear himself with J. Edgar Hoover.

Continued in wide column on next page.

THE NATION

ATOM BOMBS CAN BE FUN

The Pentagon's Blueprint for Regimenting the Nation

WASHINGTON

LAST Monday morning messengers from the National Military Establishment left stacks of a heavy booklet together with two "covering" press releases, on tables at the National Press Club in Washington. At the same time tons of the documents left Washington by mail for newspapers, city, county and state governments, and civic organizations in all parts of the country. The release date was Sunday, Nov. 14.

The booklet, 131 pages on glossy paper, plus a number of charts, contained the report of Russell J. Hopley, director of Civil Defense Planning, to Secretary of Defense Forrestal.

Hopley, who is president of the Northwestern Bell Telephone Co., had been appointed and given a staff of experts, in a directive by Forrestal last March. His report stated that the national plan for civil defense therein contained constituted "the missing link" in National Defense.

Some readers cautiously wondered if it were not the "missing link" in a structure of statism which might be turned overnight into absolutism — when coupled with Government plans (now complete), for national mobilization of industry and a universal manpower draft.

HERE IT IS. The plan calls for integration as soon as possible of 15,000,000 individuals into a National Civil Defense organization, and contains "model" legislation to be passed by state legislatures and city authorities to make the plan legal.

The organization would be centered in either the White House or the Pentagon, with obvious preference for the military. Here are some of the things it would do:

- Give Federal sanction to large forces of "auxiliary" police to be called upon in time of disaster. No mention is made of times of "social unrest" or "strikes."
- Give Federal, Army and Navy police absolute police powers over vital installations such as mines, utilities, essential factories, and "other facilities," though they may have no direct part in military production.
- Call for the maintenance of this system in times of peace for emergency use.

DOOM PREVAILS. Most compelling flavor of the report, however, is the feeling of doom which pervades it. All through the 301 pages lurks the fear of atom bombs, chemical warfare, and other secret weapons "not yet known."

The report states: "The primary objective of a program of education of the public in respect to atomic warfare should be to dispel the current unjustified fear of the radiological hazards involved in such warfare and to develop a wholesome understanding of and respect for the potentials of atomic weapons."

But 19 pages of the report are given over to "radiological defense," and the chapter opens with a grisly recitation of what would happen in a densely populated American area if one atom bomb were exploded over it. The envisioned score: total casualties 100,000; total dead 40,000, with half killed outright and the rest dying within a week.

The book gives the impression of being a war scare document, an impression borne out by its timing.

Secretary Forrestal says that because the plan is so important he will not act upon it until the people have had time to absorb it and let him know what they think.

Are you thinking?

—John B. Stone

WEEK'S ROUNDUP

Continued from wide column on preceding page.

Labor's Week

"KING" JOSEPH P. RYAN, president for life of the International Longshoremens' Assn. (AFL), was trailing after his men at the week-end—wondering where they would lead him. He and his hand-picked negotiators had settled amicably with the steamship companies after 80 days of "cooling" prescribed by the Taft-Hartley law. When the 80 days were up the King was cool, longshoremen were hot.

The longshoremen struck for a wage rise of 25 cents an hour. That would bring the scale to $2 an hour weekdays, $3 an hour for week-ends and night work. Still more pressing were demands for improved working conditions, and an end to the practice of assigning dock men to work in the hold of a ship.

ROYAL WRATH. Ryan was clearly losing face. At first he blamed communists; then he blamed a writer for the New York **Sun** for having embittered the longshoremen by "insulting" articles.

The strike spread swiftly out of New York to Philadelphia, Boston and Wilmington. Baltimore longshoremen vote on the question today and tomorrow. John J. Sampson, business agent of New York Local 791, once a friend at the King's court but now a rebel, predicted an East Coast, perhaps a Gulf Coast tie-up.

Rank-and-file seamen in a special membership meeting promised to raise no steam on struck ships. Joe Curran, president of the National Maritime Union (CIO), said the strike was "unofficial" because it lacked Ryan's approval.

The action of East Coast longshoremen heartened West Coast dockmen, now in their tenth strike week.

Labor's Troubles

THINGS ARE TOUGH. It was rough all over on union officials. Rank-and-file of the United Brewery Workers (CIO), who had waged a four-week strike in defiance of their leadership, last week won that strike. The speed-up was eliminated. Other issues in dispute will go to arbitration.

The Executive Board of the Transport Workers Union (CIO), met last Thursday to try President Michael Quill on charges of strikebreaking, interference with the locals and union balloting frauds. Quill was invited to reply to the charges. He appeared, called the union lawyer, Harry Sacher, a "peanut," and recalled that one of his opponents came "from the Pripet Marshes." Then he stalked out of the hall, declaring that he could not take part in such proceedings on Armistice Day.

Rank-and-file strength may show itself this week at the AFL convention opening today in Cincinnati; next week at the CIO convention in Portland, Ore.

Evil Days Ahead for the Witch Hunters? The Un-Americans Took a Shellacking

MEMBERS of the House Committee on Un-American Activities were in the cyclone cellar last week. Around them still raged the winds which blew Harry Truman back into the White House. Committee members wondered whether the storm would blow itself out by January when Congress reconvenes.

Gone were Republican Reps. Richard B. Vail of Illinois and John McDowell of Pennsylvania who were voted out. Gone also was Karl Mundt who now flies above the storm as a Senator-elect. The committee chairman, Rep. J. Parnell Thomas, stands indicted by a Federal Grand Jury on charges of padding his payroll and extorting kickbacks. GUARDIAN has learned that Thomas may face even more serious charges in the near future.

ABOLITION? A campaign was on to abolish the committee outright. Spearheading that attempt were Democratic Reps. Emanuel Celler of New York and Walter B. Huber of Ohio. They called for a joint Congressional group—a Committee on Civil Liberties—which would hedge its investigatory procedures with careful safeguards for the rights of witnesses.

Should the Celler-Huber campaign fail, another Congressional move was afoot to exclude Rep. John Rankin of Mississippi and to infiltrate the Committee with anti-fascist Congressmen. Never in the 10 years of its existence had the character and objectives of the Committee been so threatened.

JOHN McDOWELL

MORE CHARGES. Nowhere on Capitol Hill were witchhunters safe. Rep. Alvin E. O'Konski (R) of Wisconsin, chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, was accused by the AFL Educational and Political League of defrauding the government by payroll manipulations. Sen. Homer Ferguson (R) of Michigan, chairman of the Senate Investigation Committee, is charged by AFL and CIO with having accepted favors from the Chrysler Automobile Corp., allegedly in payment for legislative services rendered. It is not certain that the Senator will take his seat in January because the ballot counting in Michigan is said to have been somewhat "informal." Ferguson was listed as having been elected by a 35,000-vote margin.

THOMAS' TROUBLE. In hottest water was Thomas. His indictment by the grand jury followed his refusal to testify on Constitutional grounds — the same grounds marked off-limits to witnesses who appeared before the Thomas Inquisition.

Specifically Thomas is charged with hiring three persons on the government payroll. These people, the indictment says, did no work but automatically turned over their salaries to Thomas' secretary who then channeled them into the Congressman's bank account. Originally the story was told by columnist Drew Pearson who made documented charges of other frauds by Thomas.

A Political Obituary

J. PARNELL THOMAS was the son of a hard-working Democratic ward politician of Jersey City, the late James Parnell Feeney. He changed his name in 1919, pleading: "Your petitioner believes that he can get recognition and business under the name of Thomas that he could not get under the name of Feeney."

In 1925 Thomas was elected Borough Councilman of Allendale, N. J. It marked the fulfillment of a long-standing ambition. He once told a reporter: "I've liked to run for office ever since I ran for president of my class in eighth grade and got elected."

From Allendale Thomas went to the State Assembly. When the unemployed camped in the State House in 1936, Thomas adopted the credo for his political career: "Going after the Reds is going to make me," he told a reporter simply.

In that year the Congressman from his district died and Thomas took his seat. It is sometimes said that Rep. J. Parnell Thomas did nothing throughout his Congressional career except hound progressives. That is not true. The record shows these other legislative efforts:

Proposed a bill requiring that kidnapers be hanged in public.

Suggested a fire prevention stamp.

Urged that a battleship be named for the State of New Jersey.

Particularly appropriate last week was the suggestion once made by L. A. Keidel, who succeeded Thomas as Mayor of Allendale, N. J. Said Keidel:

"That we may be spared any more of that man's propensity to live by his wits at our expense, I propose a tablet of ample dimensions to be set up where we will always fall over it: 'J. Parnell Thomas, Our Evil Spirit'."

BETTER LIVING

SMOG OVER AMERICA

Blocking of Modern Health Programs Causes Thousands of Deaths Each Year

TWO weeks ago a grim, strangling, sulphurous fog eddied through the streets of Donora, Pa. In less than 24 hours 20 people died. Their death certificates record, briefly, heart-failure; but Dr. Rudolph Schwerha of the little (pop. 15,000) town's Board of Health has other words for it: "Plain murder." The 20 elderly victims died of poison—from the reeking toxic fumes of the district's factory chimneys. Donora is generally a windswept place, and local factory owners rely on the winds to disperse the poisonous vapors. But last week the wind dropped —and 20 Donora citizens (so far) dropped with it.

Oxygen treatment being given to victims of the death-dealing smog in Donora, Pa.

This is a sensational story, and it is getting the headlines. But there are thousands of other cases of unnecessary death—or "plain murder," as the blunt, angry doctor puts it—in the U.S. every year which never get headlines. The industrial hygienists are out in force in Donora today, but there are few to talk of health or hygiene in a thousand other towns and cities where aid is equally needed.

"POOR DIETS." A few weeks back, the New York State Food Commission reported on the condition of children in New York schools. Thirty per cent of fourth grade children were not getting enough milk or proteins (meat, eggs and the like). Half of them eat insufficient vegetables and fruit. A State-wide survey run jointly by the Cornell School of Nutrition, the State Health Department and Harvard Public Health School Nutrition Department, graded 60 percent of adolescent girls and 40 percent of the boys as eating "poor" diets. About three in four pregnant women and one in two of all women—housewives and employees—were found to be "eating inadequately."

American health is bad. Ask the Defense Department, which seems to be running most things in the U.S. today. Four in ten World War II draftees were rejected as physically unfit. Twelve per cent of them were mental cases. On Nov 2 draft boards in ten of America's largest cities reported they had turned down 72 per cent of all 24 and 25 year-olds as unfit. Every second one of these was a neurotic.

Most of this sickness is quite unnecessary. Recently Federal Security Administrator Oscar Ewing issued a report* which makes interesting reading. "Every year, 325,000 people die whom we have the skills to save," says Ewing. "Every year the nation loses 4,300,000 man-years of work through bad health. Every year, the nation loses $27,000,000,000 in national wealth through sickness and partial and total disability. . ." One in four of the American death roll could be avoided if about $4,000,000,000 a year was spent on health schemes, the F.S.A. report declares. One in four who die could live—that is, about 900 a day.

CAN'T PAY. This death roll is bloated, but not only because of the inability of the people to pay for medical attention or even to buy the foodstuffs which would keep them healthy. Sixteen thousand are killed every year and hundreds of thousands maimed in occupational accidents—most of them caused by the failure of "economy-minded" bosses to provide proper protection for employes operating dangerous machines. No fewer than 5,480 Americans are injured in occupational accidents every day and another 44 are killed.

Ewing's report outlines proposals for improving the situation—a fairly comprehensive health insurance program is its basis. The report makes it clear that today America rejoices in a fifth freedom—freedom from medical attention, if you can't afford to pay. "A scant 20 per cent of our people are able to afford all the medical care they need," it declares. I might add a personal view here — that 20 percent includes the group which could best be spared.

LOBBY VICTIMS. Labor and many other groups in America have long been campaigning for a federal insurance scheme, and for the organization of group medical teams of specialists instead of the present expensive and inefficient system of overworked, undertrained, competing general practitioners. Bills have been presented before Congress, and have, like so many other progressive measures before them, been lost in committee. The business lobbies have seen to that.

Next Week

In next week's GUARDIAN, read how your dentist can eliminate 40 to 50 per cent of the decay in your children's teeth.

For in the U. S. today, medicine is business—big business. And America measures the extent of its democracy by the freedom of business to do what —and how—it likes. Regimentation of the people by health schemes is, as many people will tell you (about 20 percent, probably: that top 20 percent Ewing talks about) the first step to the police state. And anyway, it would play hell with the returns of the patent medicine corporations.

President Truman himself doesn't seem to agree. "This great nation cannot allow its citizens to suffer needlessly from the lack of proper medical care," he has said. Maybe America can't, but the fact remains that it does. What if 900 are slaughtered daily for the want of a few dollars?

A final health note, which may not be so irrelevant as at first it may appear; last year sales of aspirin in God's own country were up—400 per cent.

—C. A. Willis

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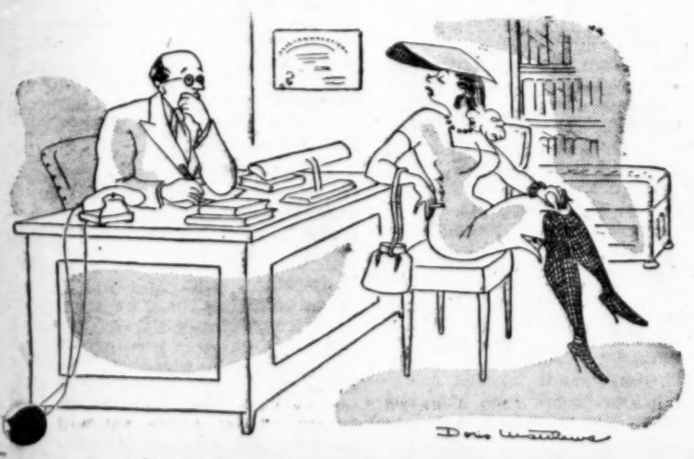
* "The Nation's Health" ($1), published by the United States Government Printing Office in September, 1948.



"You see, doctor, I keep having the feeling that I'm not being followed."

DOLLAR STRETCHERS

Coming Down in Sheets

QUOTATIONS for cotton goods are down a little, and prices of sheets will be lower at January White Sales. Biggest reduction will be in higher-priced percales.

Percale is finer and feels more luxurious than muslin. It doesn't wear as well, but it's lighter; so if you have your laundry done by the pound it will cut bills.

Best buys in sheets are generally found in the private brands of the Penney and Grant stores, the retail stores of Sears Roebuck and Montgomery Ward, and the private brands of big department stores like Macy's, Hearns and Gimbels in New York, Marshall Field in Chicago, and the AMC stores throughout the country.

Bookcases to Fit

HAVE you discovered modular furniture? It's built to standard measures so that you can shift and rearrange pieces as you choose, Until now it has been quite expensive.

Wood Market, 3 North St., Mount Vernon, N. Y., a mail-order house, offers unpainted modular bookcases 11 inches deep and two feet high in lengths of two, three and four feet. You buy as many as you want and create your own interiors. They are reasonable because you assemble and finish them yourself.

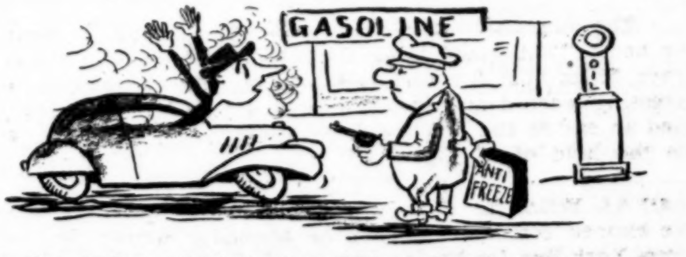
Bookcases ready to be put together are $4.95 for the two-foot unit, $6.45 for the three-foot, and $7.95 for the four-foot, all prices FOB the Wood Market.

Anti-Freeze, Anti-Pocketbook

SHORTAGE of permanent-type anti-freeze has inspired a gouge which has almost doubled official list prices, themselves 32 per cent higher than last year's.

Only four of ten New York City service stations checked last week by GUARDIAN had permanent anti-freeze, and all four asked a price far above the list. One station wanted $6 a gallon for a brand listed at $3.50.

The shortage has brought out some new and dangerous brands containing corrosive salts and bearing false labels. One of these brands was labelled as a permanent-type freeze with a glycerin base. Analysis showed it was largely calcium magnesium, which can quickly and seriously damage a motor.



All service stations get a quota of permanent types, and fair dealers set aside some for regular clients at list prices. Others, obviously, go black market with it. Know your dealer.

If you settle for alcohol anti-freeze, be careful. It evaporates and won't stand up under heavy duty. Even here gouging is being practiced. GUARDIAN's reporter found one dealer asking $1.80 for a brand listed at $1.25.

High Cost of Burps

MANY fancy and expensive pills for tummy-ache depend for their effect upon nothing but ordinary bicarbonate of soda. Wyandotte Chemicals Corp., one of the world's largest bicarbonate producers, says so in boasting ads in trade journals which you don't read. Bicarbonate, the ads say, is "the base of many digestive alkalizers in medicine cabinets."

A leading firm of pharmacists confirmed this for GUARDIAN. They admit many stomach remedies are bicarb with a little flavor. A box of soda bicarbonate can be had for a nickel at any grocery store. If you want it in tablet form, a quarter will get you 100 at any good drugstore. If you like it flavored, you can get soda mint tablets with a touch of peppermint for a few pennies more.

How to Bring Milk Down

HERE are two ways in which consumers have brought down the price of milk a bit in their communities:

In St. Louis the Consumer Federation carried on a successful campaign to get dairies to sell milk in half-gallon and gallon containers, passing on the savings to the customers. These savings average several cents a quart.

In New York the Consumer-Farmer Milk Cooperative has joined with the City Consumer Council to extend a chain of milk stations through low-income neighborhoods. For two hours every morning milk is distributed at public stations direct from the farmer to the consumer at about three cents a quart less than the store prices of the big dealers. The co-op also sells to some stores at three cents a quart less than the monopolies charge, but they have found that the retailers do not always pass on the lower prices to the public. A year ago there were four milk stations in operation, now there are 19 and plans are in the works for 150 stations.

BETTER LIVING

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS DAY NOVEMBER 17:

The Youth of the World Is Talking Back – In Chorus

NINE years ago, on Nov. 17 1939, German fascism massacred 157 students in Prague and Brno who had gathered to protest the murder, four days earlier, of another student, Jan Opletal. Two years later, students from 14 countries, meeting in London, dedicated Nov. 17 as International Students Day.

Every year since, students throughout the world have spent this day raising funds for student relief, lobbying for increased budgets for education and less for war preparations, protesting infringements on student rights, publicizing the tragedy of students in China, Spain and Greece and, since the end of the war, calling for the establishment of a lasting peace.

Last year, $300,000 was contributed ($40,000 was the goal) to the International Union of Students for relief; some of this went for the construction of a tuberculosis sanatorium in Czechoslovakia for students from devastated lands. This center will be opened Wednesday, Nov. 17.

Last year also, the National Students Federation of China called a nation-wide strike to protest the atrocities committed against students. In Norway, Sweden and Denmark, universities were open to the public for the day. Hindu and Moslem students in India started a drive agains communal riots. Behind the lines in Indonesia, students undertook a campaign against illiteracy. In Yugoslavia, the Samac-Sarajevo railway, built by voluntary youth labor from many countries, was opened on Nov. 17.

In the U.S., hundreds of meetings sponsored by students and faculty practiced international cooperation, while stiff-faced diplomats could only find disagreement.

A volunteer brigade of girls helping to build a Youth Railroad in Yugoslavia

GUNS CAN'T READ. This year, International Students Day, in addition to highlighting the efforts of students to help themselves and to win a place in deciding the future of their countries, will bold-face the fact that in a world where guns are crowding out books, the conditions for education have grown worse. Programs that perpetuate reaction and stifle freedom in much of the world, do not seek to educate.

In China, where 80% of the budget goes to prosecute Chiang Kai-shek's civil war, his police have since V-J Day killed 103 students, wounded 1,910 others, and arrested or exiled 8,100 more. Immediately after his defeated armies ran out of Kaifent, his American-made planes bombed and demolished the local university.

The Truman Doctrine is educating the Greek people in reverse. Several universities, including the Athens Medical School, have been closed. Loyalty orders for the entire family are required from college applicants, and student leaders are deported to concentration camps daily. A recent poll in Nancy showed that 11% of the French students live on only one meal a day. In Burma, where there is only one medical school in a nation of 17,000,000 people, four leaders of the All-Burma Students Union have been imprisoned.

THROWN A BONE. The Spanish student underground organization, **Union Federalista d'Estudiantes Hispanicos,** continues to grow despite the execution of many of its leaders, the imprisonment of others and mass expulsions. More than 40,000 students at the University of Rome compete for 175 dormitory places. In Britain, college education, always difficult for the sons and daughters of workers, is further restricted by tuition rises of 30%.

In the U.S. occupation zone of Germany, 2,000 technical and veterinary students, demanding financial aid in order to continue at school, were given a single grant of 35 marks. Official estimates state that 30% of all students have left school.

Closer to home, in Puerto Rico, police recently used tear gas to break up a meeting of protest against the jailing of student leaders, the suspension of 24 others, and the closing of the University of Puerto Rico for 19 days. These events followed the barring from the campus of Pedro A. Campos, who recently completed a 10-year term in Atlanta's federal prison for "agitating" for the island's independence.

Almost everywhere books are scarce and outdated, dormitories are unheated during the winter, laboratories are without equipment, and instructors severely underpaid.

FDR'S ADVICE. In the U.S. the pattern is not different. Student organizations have been banned from a score of colleges. Teachers supporting Wallace have been dismissed. Tuition increases have averaged 25-40%. About 300,000 veterans, according to Gen. Omar T. Bradley, former Veterans Administration chief, have left school for financial reasons, in spite of G. I. Bill allotments.

The International Union of Students have taken the advice of Franklin D. Roosevelt in his greetings to International Students Day in 1942, and are making their voices heard. They are not waiting for others to give them the better world they thought they were fighting for. The IUS has asked its member organizations in 40 countries to make this year's celebrations bigger and more dramatic. It looks like they will.

—**Willard Hoff**

WILLARD HOFF, a native of New York City, is 25 and a student at City College of N. Y. His facts come from a report to the executive committee of the Union of International Students and from various national branches of the union.

Lifelines

THE BIRD. With turkeys scaling up to 30 pounds at prices higher than the flight of skylarks, the Thanksgiving budget problem becomes tough. But many markets offer halves, quarters, breasts, legs and wings of the big gobblers at prices that may be within your budget's reach. A front quarter weighs from 4½ to 7 pounds, a rear quarter from 3½ to 6 pounds, and you won't need a giant roasting pan that can be used only once a year. After thawing (quartered birds are usually frozen), place in the oven skin side up and roast in a moderate (325 degrees) oven 45 to 55 minutes a pound. Unfrozen birds may take a little longer.

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FAST WIND. Recently in Washington the RCA and Kodak companies showed off Ultrafax, a new method of communication: the complete text of **Gone With The Wind,** 1,047 pages, was transmitted in 2 minutes and 21 seconds and engineers predict they'll be able to send a million words a minute. It's all done with a combination of television and high-speed photography. Letters, drawings, maps, pages of type, are shot by short-wave radio to a "hot" (high speed) camera and are ready within a few minutes for printing or projection on a screen. The Russians wanted to buy some of the rights to Ultrafax, and RCA ran screaming to Defense Secretary Forrestal. With electronic speed he said, "No!" National security, you know.

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WHO WANTS IT? Metropolitan Life Insurance says its mammoth 8,600-unit apartment house development, Stuyvesant Town, in New York, is lily-white because that's the way the people want it.

The same thing was said by department store owners when the New York State Fair Employment Practices Act made them hire a few Negro sales clerks: the people don't want it, they complained, and it will hurt business. A survey conducted by experts from Columbia University and N. Y. U. now shows that the shopping public has no objection whatever to buying from Negro clerks. Not even Negro shoppers. Even the minority which expressed prejudices when interviewed buy just as freely from Negro clerks as from whites.

And now a weekly paper circulated in the Stuyvesant Town housing project reveals that 62 per cent of the tenants there are actively opposed to Jim Crow where they live. Metropolitan Life gets a $50,000,000 tax exemption for 25 years on its housing project because it is classified as a semi-public project. It is fighting the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People, the American Civil Liberties Union and the American Jewish Congress in the courts to maintain its segregation policy. But its argument that the people want it that way won't hold up.

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MAGNETIC PROSE. A printing process in which magnetized powder takes the place of ink is in the works. Called erography, which means "dry writing," the process charges an image on a plate, mat or specially prepared paper with positive electricity and then sprinkles negatively charged powder across it. Put in a press with electrically charged paper, the image is transferred and heat makes it permanent. Engineers are working now to make the reproduction of half-tones (photographs) possible by this method.

GUY EMERY SHIPLER

Church Leaders Turn a Deaf Ear To Press-Radio War Ballyhoo

WAR ballyhoo on the air and in the press misses its mark in the minds of millions of churchmen. During the summer and fall, national and regional meetings of Protestants have, like the Methodist Church's general conference, condemned war as "contrary to every tenet of love and reason for which Christianity stands."

The strong Northern Baptist Convention voted to work with other religious bodies to start an immediate World Peace Movement "to save the world from destruction."

The Pennsylvania Synod of the Presbyterian Church urged an "unceasing effort to understand the Russian point of view." Oregon's Presbyterian Synod said that the U. S. must try to excel the Soviet "in constructive statesmanship rather than in toughness, momentary cleverness, recrimination or inflammatory utterances."

The Michigan Conference of the Methodist Church protested to President Truman on "the continuing pressure for military domination of our life," and urged "an honest attempt to make peace with Russia."

Four hundred thousand members of the United Council of Church Women, announcing a campaign to enlist a total of 1,000,000 members, declared through their president, Mrs. Harper Sibley: "Women are campaigning, ringing doorbells, trying to stir the whole church and, in so doing, their own communities. They are saying that war is not the answer, and that succeeding generations must be saved from it."

In October, delegates from 781 churches at the Baptist Missionary Convention went on record: "We utterly reject the fatalistic idea that war with Russia is inevitable." Resolutions in almost the same words were adopted by the United Luthern Church, the Universalist Church Conference, and the Minnesota Methodist Conference.

The N. Y. Presbyterian Synod came out against peacetime conscription and "the present trend toward militarism."

Acting on their traditional conviction that actions are more effective than words, the American Friends Service Committee (Quakers) recently sent a $25,000 gift of streptomycin to Russia with the following note written in Russian: "Th[illegible] streptomycin is a testimony [illegible] goodwill and friendship, to promote the health of the people of the U. S. S. R."

All Kinds

IN one area at least we may look with confidence to the future of the atomic age, according to a **Mr. Pearson** writing in the British **Gas Journal.** "Use of atomic power," writes Pearson, "will during the lifetime of the present generation greatly simplify the whole method of cremation."

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Four unnamed turtles, brought by air from Trinidad for the **Lord Mayor's** banquet in London, were given restoratives on arrival in the form of oysters and a bottle of Cordon Rouge champagne. The turtles were last reported inside the stomachs of city aldermen.

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William Stone of New York had it and ate it too—until the cops caught up. He rented a new car, sold it for $2,100, then stole it from the purchaser and returned it to the rental company. The law called it grand larceny.

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In a suit filed at Redwood City, Calif., the virginity of a French poodle was valued at $1,600. Asking these damages from Dr. P. Hand, pet shop proprietor, was Miss Dorr Bothwell, textile designer in San Francisco. Dr. Hand, charged by Miss Bothwell with letting a cocker spaniel make advances to her poodle Sophie, said: "Sophie is neurotic. Having puppies did her good."

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Reginald Reagan of Chicago likes eggs in his beer but his wife says they cost too much. When she insisted on cooking them Reggie got so rough the cops had to come and get him. Now he's on a peace bond: every egg he drops in his beer will cost him $1,000.

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Leaving for a year in Buckhaven, Scotland, to make a study for the Medical Research Council on how Scots make love, four Cambridge University anthropologists said: "It will be strictly academic."

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When **Pat Fleming** found a trapdoor in the ceiling of the washroom of a Frisco tavern he decided to move in. It was a happy life while it lasted, with the run of the bar from closing time to opening time. He was discovered when his ceiling sprang a leak. It leaked bourbon whiskey.

OTHER PEOPLE'S LIVES

'VICTOR LOOKED AT ME WITH HIS SINGLE EYE'

The Tragedy Behind the French Mine Strike

PARIS

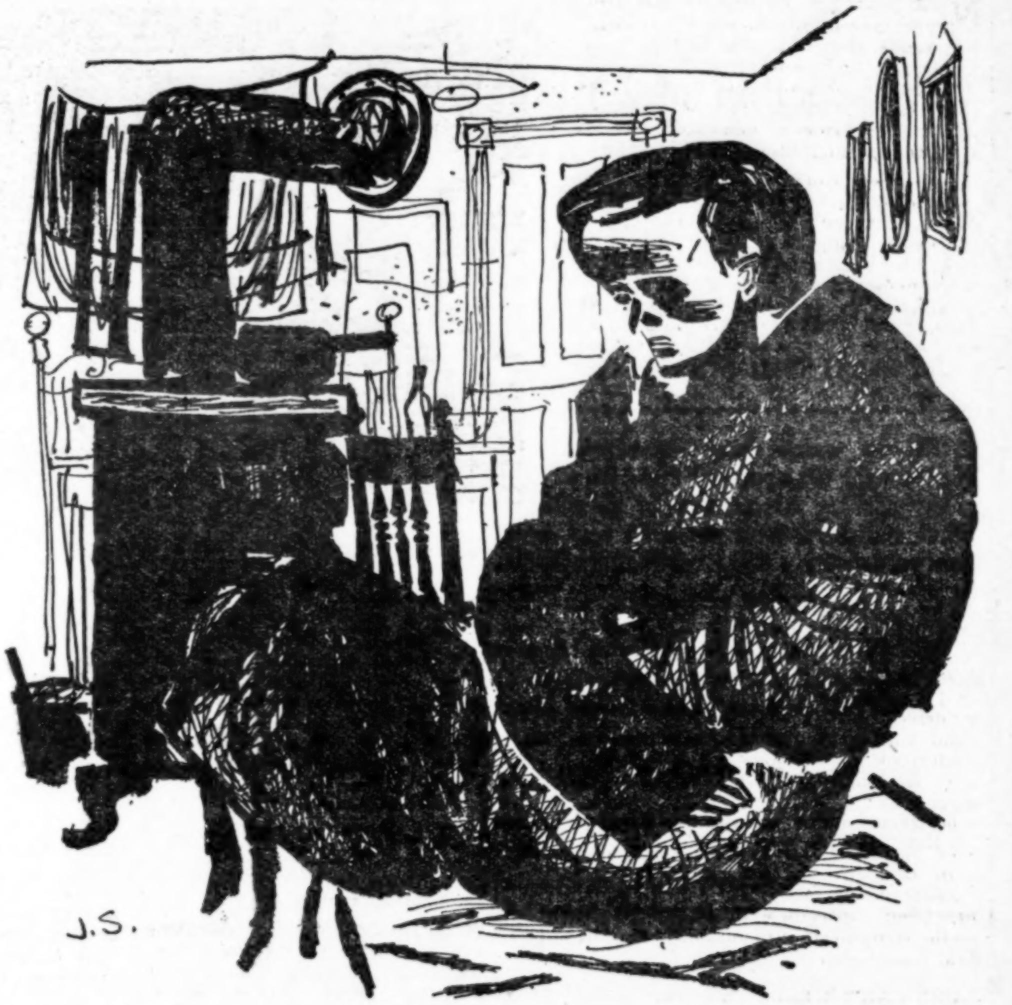
THE coal strike was in its fourth week. The suffering in the mine area was great as the government bent every propaganda weapon to picture the fight for food as a red plot. And I had said I had enough room at home for a child.

He was to arrive in the next convoy, the following Monday. On Saturday morning I came home from my work; Victor had already been brought to the house.

On the staircase I met a neighbor who said I should come and see something. In the neighbor's apartment someone was sitting on a folding cot. The neighbor said: "Here is Victor."

Victor looked at me with his single eye. The other looked bloodshot. As a matter of fact it is not an eye any more. The pathetic little person looked ten years old, but is really 14. I rushed to my place to prepare his little living space and heat up water for a bath...

Victor is now part of the family. He eats like a normal 14-year-old, goes to school, takes a bath every evening and goes to bed in pajamas. He reads comics, too.



ALL this seems fairly commonplace. But you see, there were nine children in the family. The father dug coal in a Denain mine for the whole family until some of the boys could come and work there too. The mother had so much to do that something was always happening to somebody. The babies burned their necks playing with matches in their cradle. One of them was epileptic and nothing much could be done for him. One can't afford expensive illnesses around the mines.

Nine years ago a war broke out. As far as food was concerned, the presence of the Germans didn't make much difference. The diet at Victor's house had always been based mainly on flour and water. When you stick some dough about your innards, you don't feel hunger so badly.

But then there was a strike in the mines, because the miners had learned to react against exploiters better than most human beings. (I mean, in case people forget, that Germans also were exploiters). So there was shooting on top of long-learned misery and weariness, and the sky was just a little darker.

FROM the sky came something new to Victor's sad and bewildered eyes. He had two then, until 1943, when he was nine. During the heavy bombings of Denain, the kids of the neighboring **corons** (blocks of miners' habitations) were parked in a kind of camp in an empty lot. One day, while the kids were running for cover, Victor was pushed over and crushed against the ground. His face was mangled and he lost his left eye. His nose was broken and his upper lip split.

Plastic surgery? For a miner's child? . . . When Victor came out of the hospital, he found that his father had been run over by a coal wagon on the very day of his own accident. The result was a torn-off left arm with other "bruises."

The pension Victor's father got for that was so small that of course he had to go on working. His job is sorting coal with his right hand. You should never encourage mine-workers to be lazy.

NOW all the children are of working age, but the family barely makes a living; there is continual fear of further privations if another arm or eye should be lost. And they are again on strike against the exploiters (French, this time) who would much rather buy American coal at 5,200 francs a ton than give some security to the miners and have the coal cost them 3,000 francs a ton.

The government sends its expensive cops against the criminal miners who want to eat meat from time to time. The cops lay about them, destroy some more arms and eyes, crush so many lives.

And when they find among the strikers a North African or a Spaniard, then it is just too bad. They ought to be glad—these god . . . foreigners—that we let them crawl down below to extract coal for their barracks and comforts. Who do they think they are—wanting to have some human rights? Do they think they are better than the Jews and foreign bastards the Germans exterminated when they were running things?

VICTOR knows very well, at 14, who are his friends and who are not. Nature has gifted him with a skilled pair of hands. But where his family lives there is no good professional school, nobody to recognize his skill, nobody to tell him what to expect from life.

All he needs is a chance. What might he not grow to be if he had one?

Far away from here, in a country called America that he believes is infested with naughty Indians, sharecroppers live a life of misery that is comparable to his. Kids don't drink any more milk than he does and do not know the taste of steak.

But thank God there is the Marshall Plan.

—**Anne-Marie Hertz**

Cotton-Patch Charlie

A COUPLE of weeks ago the Mississippi newspapers came out with the old "it is alleged stuff" as they always do when they are trying to form an excuse for a lynching. This time it was alleged that a young Negro drew a Knife on a Whiteman and slaped his (whiteman's) Wife. About 200 white Men formed a Mob including the State Highway Patrole, but when they went out to get the "nigger" they found that about 75 Negro men had Armed themselves and concealed themselves in a swamp behind a big lake.

Then the question arrose as to "What rat would put the bell on the cat." So the Mob gathered on opposite side of the Lake in open space along the Highway. The Negroes yeled across the Lake, "Come and get us you yellow bellies," and after about Three Hours arguing as to who would be the one to be the first to step into a boat to lead the Mob across the lake, out of the 200 not one would agree to lead the way.

So they Compromised by going out and arresting 13 Negroes who hadint even Heard of the incident, put them in Jail ("purpose, questioning and safe Keeping") whatever that means. After a few hours, they released the Negro Prisoners. It was learned later that just the opposite was the truth in the case of the Knife and the Slaping. The whole thing was intended as a slap at Truman's Civil Rights Plank.

And as I see it, the boys done a darn good job LEGISLATING an anti-Lynch Bill down there behind that there Lake, while we are waiting for the two Old Parties to get through Kicking our rights around in Washington.

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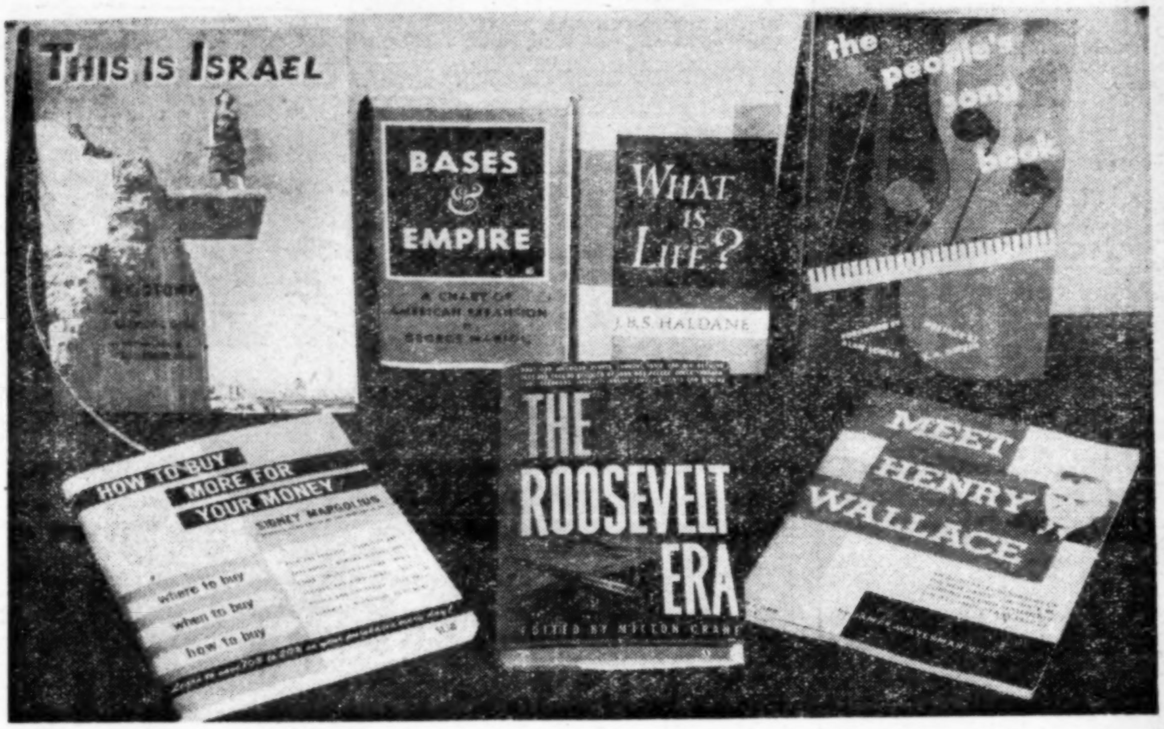

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